

# Monroe Lake

## Program Schedule

on the back!

### Website

[stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm](http://stateparks.in.gov/2954.htm)



### E-Newsletter

[bit.ly/monroeprograms](http://bit.ly/monroeprograms)



### Facebook

[facebook.com/monroelake](https://facebook.com/monroelake)



### Twitter

[@MonroeLake](https://twitter.com/MonroeLake)



**Monroe Lake Office (Paynetown SRA):** 4850 S. State Road 446, Bloomington, IN 47401, 812-837-9546  
**Monroe Lake Naturalist (Paynetown SRA: Activity Center):** Jill Vance, 812-837-9967, [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jvance@dnr.IN.gov)

**Campground Reservations (Paynetown SRA):** 866-622-6746, [CAMP.IN.gov](http://CAMP.IN.gov)

**Lake Monroe General Store and Boat Rental (at Paynetown SRA):** 812-837-9909

**Four Winds Resort & Marina, Boat Rental (at Fairfax SRA):** 812-824-2628, [fourwindsresort.com](http://fourwindsresort.com)

**Lake Monroe Marina and Boat Rental (at Cutright SRA):** 812-837-9394, [lakemonroemarina.com](http://lakemonroemarina.com)

**Laura Thorne Training, kayaks - SUPs - wind surfing - lessons (at Fairfax SRA):** 812-797-4747



## Paynetown Activity Center

**Open 1 to 5 p.m.: Daily thru 8/21, then Weekends only**

*Located next to the Swimming Beach inside Paynetown SRA*

### Got a question? Ask a Naturalist!

The **Naturalist's Office** is located inside the Activity Center. You can also pick up maps/brochures/flyers or browse our library of field guides and other books.

### Live Snakes & Interpretive Exhibits

Check in on our live snakes! We rotate in a new set of wall/shelf exhibits at the beginning of each summer and feature a large selection of taxidermy animals on permanent display.

### Hoosier Quest: Explore, Discover, Challenge

You can **collect a unique pin** for each Indiana State Park in *Explore* (each property can often be completed during a single day/weekend visit). Individuals can also earn special patches through both *Discover* and *Challenge*.

### Free Fishing Equipment Rental

Renters must be at least 18 years of age with a valid government ID. **Check-out up to 4 sets per person** during open hours; return between 1 and 5 p.m. the next day.

### Daily Craft & Coloring Table

We feature a **different craft each day**; most crafts are suitable for ages 5+. Another table is always stocked with crayons and a selection of coloring pages.

### Kids' Play Area & Small World Play Station

Puppet stage, board and card games, puzzles, large felt board, picture books, touch table, and **Small World play station** (features rotating set of landscapes with miniature animals and habitat elements).

### Jigsaw Puzzle Table

Spend a few minutes or a whole afternoon working on our current jigsaw puzzle (500-1500 piece puzzles designed for older children and adults). A different puzzle is rotated in after each puzzle is completed.

### Recycling Center

Recycle your **aluminum cans** with us! Proceeds fund programs, activities, and exhibits. You can also recycle plastic bottles and paper (no food containers).



**Paynetown Fossil Dig** Love searching for fossils? Check out our Fossil Dig at the **back end of the Overflow Parking Area** at Paynetown SRA! Although rock and fossil collecting is prohibited at Monroe Lake, any rocks and fossils found *in this activity site* can be taken home with you!



# Program Schedule AUGUST 2016

Locations are at PAYNETOWN SRA, unless otherwise noted.

## ROVING NATURALIST

One of our naturalists typically walks through the Campground area on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, as well as on Sunday mornings.

We may have an interesting item to share, a quick game to play, or an invite to an upcoming program. And don't be afraid to ask us your questions!

We offer both drop-in programs (from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_), where you may arrive at any point during that time period, as well as programs with a specific start time (at \_\_\_). **If the program has a specific start time, please make sure you arrive on time or we may start/leave without you!**

**Programs listed here are designed for families/individuals.** Schools, scouts, and other organized groups should contact the Monroe Lake Naturalist for info on scheduling a private program (minimum 2 weeks notice required).

## Monday, August 1

### Snake Chat from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

**Program Location: Activity Center**

We'll have one of our live snakes out for you to see up-close and touch! The naturalist will share info about the snake and answer your snake-related questions. *(Snake Chats are held each Monday during the summer. On some Mondays, we'll also be feeding the snakes!)*

## Wednesday, August 3

### Froggy Fun at 8:00 p.m.

**Location: Activity Center Amphitheater**

Investigate the habitat and lifestyles of southern Indiana's frog populations—learn about the most common species and how to identify them, and explore their metamorphosis from tadpole to adult! 30 to 45 minutes

## Thursday, August 4

### Night Sky Bingo at 8:00 p.m.

**Location: Activity Center Amphitheater**

Join us for some rounds of Bingo with an astronomy theme! All ages welcome – and we have prizes! 45 minutes

## Tuesday, August 2

### Flora Field Day at 9:30 a.m.

- Sign up for this session at <http://bit.ly/florafielddaug2016>
- Registration required by July 30.
- Free; recommended for ages 12 and up.
- Session location: Allens Creek SRA

Want to work on your flora identification skills? Practice with a naturalist! Field day emphasis is on proper use and application of an ID key, which opens the door to identifying thousands of species. The naturalist will work with each attendee based on their prior experience. If you've never worked with flower ID before, this is a great way to learn. If you have prior experience, this is a fun way to practice your skills (and maybe add some new blooms to your life list!). **2 hours**

#### Things to Bring:

- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (extra copies available, if you don't have your own)
- bug spray (long pants are also a good idea!)
- hat and sunglasses (for sun protection)
- water bottle (pre-filled)
- camera (if you're the picture-taking type)



## Friday, August 5

### **Empowerment Pebbles from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Patio***

Drop by to discuss how animals have been used to represent different traits (the wise owl, the curious cat) and paint your own animal symbol on a personal pebble to represent your best or favorite personality trait.

### **Ways of the Wind from 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

***Location: Beach***

Drop by to explore some of the important things the wind does in our ecosystems, and build your own anemometer to measure wind speeds.

### **Wanted for Thievery and Murder: The Cowbird at 8:00 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Amphitheater***

The cowbird may just be Indiana's Most Wanted Bird. Discover how this invasive species tricks and kills to survive, learn why humans are its favorite accomplice, and find out what we can do to help protect its favorite victims – our native songbirds. 30 minutes



### **Butterfly Hike at 10:00 a.m.**

***Location: Meet at back end of Overflow Parking Area***

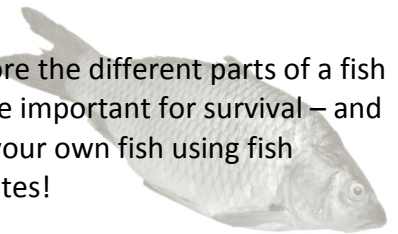
Hike with us into a small field area to look for and identify different types of butterflies! We'll discuss how butterflies use color and patterning for camouflage and mimicry. 30 to 45 minutes

## Saturday, August 6

### **Fish Anatomy from 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

***Location: Beach***

Drop by to explore the different parts of a fish and why they are important for survival – and you can design your own fish using fish anatomy templates!



### **Campground Bandits at 8:00 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Amphitheater***

Did you lock up your food after dinner? Better do so – there are masked bandits roaming the campground! Learn about how these bandits, also known as raccoons, survive and how you can more happily coexist with them. Children can make a raccoon mask at the end of the program. 45 minutes

## Monday, August 8

### **Snake Chat from 1 to 1:30 p.m.**

***Program Location: Activity Center***

We'll have one of our live snakes out for you to see up-close and touch! The naturalist will share info about the snake and answer your snake-related questions. *(Snake Chats are held each Monday during the summer. On some Mondays, we'll also be feeding the snakes!)*



## Wednesday, August 10

### **Animalitos from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

***Location: Campground Playground***

Drop by to make your own animalito, a little animal figurine/toy created from brightly-colored fabric. Animalitos originated in Guatemala, but we'll be putting a Indiana twist on the tradition by crafting animals native to Monroe Lake!

## Thursday, August 11

### **Herptile Hype from 6 to 8:30 p.m.**

***Location: Campground***

Watch for the naturalist roving the Campground this evening to learn about herptiles! Discover the differences between reptiles and amphibians and learn which once you might see here at Monroe Lake.



## Friday, August 12

### **More Than Meets the Eye from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

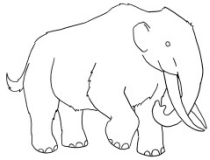
***Location: Beach***

There's more in the rays of the Sun than just visual light – and it's what you can't see that's dangerous to your skin! Drop by to learn about what else is in a sunbeam and how sunlight can damage your body. You can also make a bracelet that will show you when it's time to reapply sunscreen.

### **Good Luck Charm Bags from 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Shelter***

Drop by to craft a "charm bag" and learn about some traditional folklore regarding how to acquire good luck!



### **Ice Age Giants at 8:00 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Amphitheater***

BRRR! We're going back in time to the Ice Age to discover and investigate the big animals that once roamed Indiana about 2 million years ago. Compare and contrast the animals we have now with the ones we had then! We'll finish with a fun craft. *45 minutes*

## Saturday, August 13

## S'MORES CELEBRATION!

### **S'mores Ornaments from 1 to 5 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center***

Drop by to craft a cute s'mores ornament (younger kids may also enjoy wearing it as a pendant!) to help you remember the summer campfire season!

### **Solar S'mores from 1:30 to 3 p.m.**

***Location: Beach***

We've turned a pizza box into a solar oven! Drop by to watch (Sun-permitting) us melt chocolate and marshmallows for s'mores – and sample the end result. If the Sun doesn't cooperate, you can still drop by to check out the solar oven design and pick up plans to build your own. You'll also learn how a solar oven works – it's basically the same way that gases get trapped in our atmosphere and heat the Earth!

### **S'mores Flowerpot Pops at 4:30 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Shelter***

Assemble a cute s'mores flowerpot "pop" for later snacking – while learning about some real flowers that are also edible (although maybe not *quite* as tasty as your s'more flower!).

### **S'mores Sampling Campfire from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Amphitheater***

Drop by our campfire to sample some unique and creative s'mores that go beyond the traditional combination! You can also try to "pin the chocolate on the s'more" and pick up a collection of our favorite s'mores recipes. *Donations welcome to help cover food costs.*

## Sunday, August 14

### **Hornet Nest Dissection from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

***Location: Activity Center Patio***

Want to take a peek at the inside of a paper hornet nest? You know, those basketball-sized nests that they build hanging from tree branches? Drop by to dig into one and explore! Our nest has been unoccupied for over a year – so no risk of encountering any living residents.

## Wednesday, August 17

### **The Nose Knows from 6 to 8:30 p.m.**

***Location: Campground (Roving Naturalist!)***

Smell is the most important sense for most mammals. Watch for the naturalist roving through the Campground this evening to test *your* sense of smell and see how it compares to other types of mammals.



## Thursday, August 18

### **Migration Matters from 6 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Location:** *Campground*

It's the beginning of fall migration for some of our birds. Watch for the naturalist roving the Campground this evening to learn which species are preparing to leave us for warmer regions and how they will find their way.



## Friday, August 19

### **Feather Fun from 6 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Location:** *Campground*

Watch for the naturalist roving through the Campground tonight... you can compare and contrast feathers of different birds to learn about specialization of function – match the feather to the bird! Learn about the parts of a feather and how they allow/contribute to the awesome ability of flight.



## Saturday, August 20

### **Swiss Cheese Rock from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Location:** *Beach*

Drop by to learn how caves and other karst features are created in the limestone bedrock of Monroe County.



### **Teeny Tiny Aquatic Animals at 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** *Meet on the Activity Center Patio*

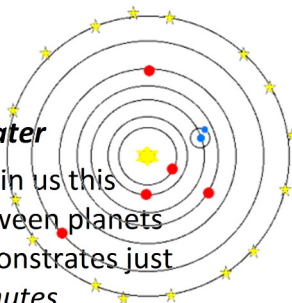
Get your feet wet as we explore the shoreline area and collect itty bitty animals from the water called macroinvertebrates! Discover who you've been sharing the swimming beach with – and why they are important to keep around.

*30 minutes*

### **Solar Scale at 8:00 p.m.**

**Location:** *Activity Center Amphitheater*

Our solar system is incredibly big! Join us this evening to explore the distance between planets and assemble a bead craft that demonstrates just how far apart they really are. *30 minutes*



## Thursday, August 18

### **Nature on the Water Paddling Trip at 8:45 p.m. FULL MOON NIGHT PADDLE!**

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/naturewateraug2016>
- Preregistration is required by August 12.
- Program fee is \$10 per person.
- Limited to 8 people. Restricted to ages 16+.
- All participants must have at least 2 hours of prior paddling experience.
- Bring your own canoe/kayak, or rent a kayak from us for an additional \$25.

**Location:** *Pine Grove SRA*

Explore the quieter side of Monroe Lake during these guided paddling trips that journey through backwaters, wetlands, bays, and/or slow-moving streams. Trips highlight beautiful views, hidden wildlife, aquatic plants, and unique land features. **1½ hours**

## Sunday, August 21

### **Buried History: Monroe Lake Cemeteries Driving Tour at 2:00 p.m.**

- Sign up for this session at <http://bit.ly/buriedhistoryaug2016>
- Registration required by August 16.
- Free, but limited to 20 people.
- Tour meets at Paynetown SRA.

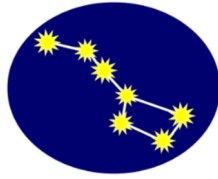
Before the reservoir was built, small communities and family farms were spread throughout the Salt Creek valley. That same valley became dotted with cemeteries of all sizes, from single plots to larger platted burial areas. We'll visit a couple of the cemeteries that still remain, see the remnants of another, and look at the locations where other cemeteries once were before the water poured in – and then visit the cemetery that was created specifically to hold those graves. Along the way, you'll learn something about the people that once called this area "home." **2 hours 30 minutes**

## Friday, August 26

**Constellations from 8 to 9 p.m.**

**Location:** *Campground Playground*

Drop by to make a constellation slide that you can project on a dark wall with a flashlight or old slide projector! Learn about some of the different constellations visible in the night sky this time of year and choose your favorite to reproduce.



## Saturday, August 27

**Moon Man, May I? at 8:00 p.m.**

**Location:** *Activity Center Amphitheater*

Join us this evening to explore “man in the moon” folklore, discover how our ancestors viewed the moon, and play a round of “Moon Man!” *30 to 45 minutes*



## Sunday, August 28

**Intro to Kayaking at 10:00 a.m.**

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/introkayakaug2016>
- Registration required by August 24.
- Cost is \$10 per person.
- Limited to 8 people; ages 8 and up.
- Location: Paynetown SRA

If you love seeing wildlife, or just enjoy exploring, kayaking is for you! Kayaks let you reach backwater areas and quiet bays that aren't otherwise accessible; it's a wonderful way to experience Monroe Lake. This workshop is specifically designed for beginners with zero (or very little) paddling experience. We'll teach you all the basic skills and provide supervised paddling time in a quiet water area to practice. **Kayaks, paddles, and lifejackets are all provided. 2 hours**

## Monday, August 29

**Lunch with Nature Series at 11:00 a.m.**

- Sign up at <http://bit.ly/lwnaug2016>
- Register by August 26.
- Limited to 12 people, recommended for adults.
- Location: Paynetown SRA

Join us for our monthly *Lunch with Nature Series*! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the main presentation. Afterwards, there is a short hike/activity that highlights the topic. **90 minutes**

**This month's topic is: Freshwater Bryozoans.** Ever notice a gelatinous blob washed up along the shoreline of the lake? It's not an alien egg pod, but a colony of bryozoans!



# Mark your calendar for these Special Events!

## September 11: Shoreline Cleanup

## September 24: Furs, Fins, and Feathers

## October 1: Camouflage the Duck Blinds

## October 28-29: Ghostly Gathering